

**REMARKS**

Claims 1, 5, 12, 16, 22, 24, 25 and 27 were allowed based on changes made by Examiner's Amendment. However, the changes made were not entirely as expected. Reconsideration in light of the amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Examiner had canceled claims 4, 15, 23 and 26, while incorporating those claims in their entirety into the independent claims referenced (1, 12, 22 and 25, respectively). It was not the intention of the Applicants that the "pipelined encryption/decryption engine" be limited only to "Cipher Block Chaining Mode with exception of handling of initial variables." Had that been the case, Applicants would not have submitted the element as dependent claims. The Examiner and the attorney for the applicants spoke on the Examiner's very last day and quite near to the end of the day. It was understood that the requirement of "feedback around the encryption/decryption engine" needed to be in the claim elements and not solely in the preamble in order to give that patentable weight. This was the intention of the Applicants at the time of the phone conversation between the Examiner and the attorney on September 11, 2007. Although the attorney noted in the conversation that an earlier version of the claims possibly existed wherein the "feedback around the encryption/decryption engine" was given in the claim elements and perhaps it would be possible to revert to that version, that suggestion was apparently not clearly enough stated during the phone conversation. It appears that in the rush to get the application allowed, the Examiner and the attorney miscommunicated. Applicants have amended claims 1, 12, 22 and 25 herein and have added claims 28-31, which are essentially amended submittals of claims 4, 15, 23 and 26.


By this amendment, Applicants request reconsideration of the amendments made by the previous Examiner.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims as amended and claims newly added herein are allowable and requests notice to that effect.

Further and favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

Date: 12/28/07

Respectfully submitted,

  
Madelynn J. Farber  
Registration No. 45,410

Sandia National Laboratories  
P.O. Box 5800, MS 0161  
Albuquerque, NM 87185-0161  
(p) 505-844-3858, (f) 505-844-9955